

# Learn more about the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup

## Planning for Cleanup

Portland, Oregon

April 2012



### Why Do We Need to Clean Up Portland Harbor?

Eating resident fish, such as, bass, carp and catfish from the waters of the Portland Harbor site poses a significant health risk.

Additionally, contamination from the site poses an unacceptable ecological risk for wildlife and fish.

### How Do We Clean Up Portland Harbor?

The vision for Portland Harbor is to:

- Clean up contaminated sediment and decrease sources of pollution to reduce the risk for people eating resident fish from the Lower Willamette River and for wildlife and fish living in or near the River.
- Provide better habitat for wildlife and fish and coordinate cleanup actions with habitat restoration projects in the lower Willamette River.
- Allow recreational and other uses of the river that also continue to support navigation, industry, commerce, and jobs in Portland Harbor.

#### **Portland Harbor is big, complex, and dynamic.**

Portland Harbor and the surrounding land are used in many different ways, creating different impacts. Given this complexity, we will need a wide range of methods to solve the problem.

On **March 30, 2012**, the Lower Willamette Group submitted a draft Feasibility Study to EPA.

The agency will use the Feasibility Study to help prepare a plan to clean up Portland Harbor.

### How Can You Get Involved?

#### **A lot is at stake!**

- Cleanup of the waterway will take time, money, and patience – the options include tradeoffs that will spur discussion and will be evaluated before a cleanup plan is proposed by EPA.
- Your voice, as a member of the community and this region, is critical to help make decisions about the Portland Harbor Cleanup.
- It is time to learn more, ask questions, and prepare to review the proposed cleanup.

#### **Things to think about:**

- What do you think are the most important considerations for evaluating cleanup alternatives?
- How would you like to be able to use the river in the future?
- What are your concerns about how the cleanup might impact you or your community?

EPA will hold a series of Information Sessions to introduce the feasibility study to the public.

See Schedule, last page ➡

⇒ Continued

## How Can You Get Involved?

You can view the draft Feasibility Study at the Multnomah County Central Library, or at [www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor](http://www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor)

### **Invitation to Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings**

The Portland Harbor CAG meets the **second Wednesday** of every month from **6 to 8 p.m.** at the BES Water Lab: 6543 North Burlington, Portland.

The meetings are open to the public and include discussion of a wide range of topics related to the site.

If you want to receive meeting notifications, please contact Alanna Conley (*see How Can I Get More Information?*, next page ⇒).

## What Happens Next?

### **Review the Draft Feasibility Study**

The U.S. EPA is reviewing the draft Feasibility Study submitted by the Lower Willamette Group. EPA's review will likely take 4 to 6 months. Once we complete the review, we will provide comments to the Lower Willamette Group.

### **Propose Preferred Cleanup Option**

After review of the Feasibility Study, EPA will write a Proposed Plan. This plan will summarize the cleanup alternatives and propose a preferred course of action. We will ask for public comments on the Proposed Plan.

**Your input to the proposed plan will be very important in selecting the best course of action.** EPA expects to have this plan available for public comment in late 2013.

### **Select Cleanup Option**

After carefully considering public input on the Proposed Plan, EPA will issue a Record of Decision (ROD) for Portland Harbor. Then EPA will negotiate with potentially responsible parties to design and construct the selected remedy.

## What is the Feasibility Study?

The Feasibility Study outlines the different methods available for sediment cleanup and describes a wide range of ways to combine those methods into cleanup alternatives.

Methods to clean up contaminated sediment include:

- Digging it up ("dredging")
- Covering it with clean soil ("capping")
- Treating it in place ("in-situ treatment")
- Allowing cleaner upriver sediments to cover it up ("natural recovery")

The alternatives for cleaning up Portland Harbor sediment range from a "no action" alternative (Alternative A) to the most active removal alternative (Alternative G).

All of the alternatives presented in the draft Feasibility Study include a combination of the cleanup methods listed above. But, some alternatives emphasize removal of the contaminated sediments, while others emphasize leaving it in the river.

The alternatives in the draft Feasibility Study were evaluated using seven federal criteria required by law.

Two threshold criteria must be met first:

- 1) protect human health and the environment,
- 2) comply with applicable or relevant and appropriate federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

Then there are five balancing criteria:

- 1) Long-term effectiveness and permanence
- 2) Reducing toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment
- 3) Short-term effectiveness
- 4) Ability to be implemented
- 5) Cost

Two additional criterion are considered by EPA: State acceptance and public acceptance.

## Attend an Information Session

<b>Wednesday April 11</b> Open House: 5:30-6 p.m. Information Session: 6 -8 p.m.	<b>St John's Community Center</b> 8427 N Central St. Portland
<b>Thursday April 12</b> Open House: 12:30-1 p.m. Information Session: 1 -3 p.m.	<b>Portland Building Auditorium, 2nd Floor</b> 1120 SW 5th Ave. Portland
<b>Wednesday April 18</b> Open House: 5:30-6 p.m. Information Session: 6 -8 p.m.	<b>June Key Delta Community Center</b> 5940 N Albina Portland
<b>Thursday May 10</b> Open House: 5:30-6 p.m. Information Session: 6 -8 p.m.	<b>Ecotrust Building—Billy Frank Jr. Conf. Center</b> 721 NW 9th Ave. Portland

## How Can I Get More Information?

### Visit EPA at:

 [www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor](http://www.epa.gov/region10/portlandharbor)

### Contact EPA:

Questions can be directed to EPA's  
Community Involvement Coordinator

 **Alanna Conley**, 503-326-6831 or

 [conley.alanna@epa.gov](mailto:conley.alanna@epa.gov)

### EPA's Project Managers

 **Chip Humphrey**, 503-326-2678 or

 [humphrey.chip@epa.gov](mailto:humphrey.chip@epa.gov)


 **Kristine Koch**, 206-553-6705 or

 [koch.kristine@epa.gov](mailto:koch.kristine@epa.gov)

### Visit Portland Harbor CAG at:

 [www.portlandharborcag.info](http://www.portlandharborcag.info)

*The EPA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the public meetings, such as requiring information in a certain format (Braille, large print), please notify Alanna Conley, at 503-326-6831, or by e-mail at [conley.alanna@epa.gov](mailto:conley.alanna@epa.gov)*

 *TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8839 and give the operator Alanna's phone number. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.*

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

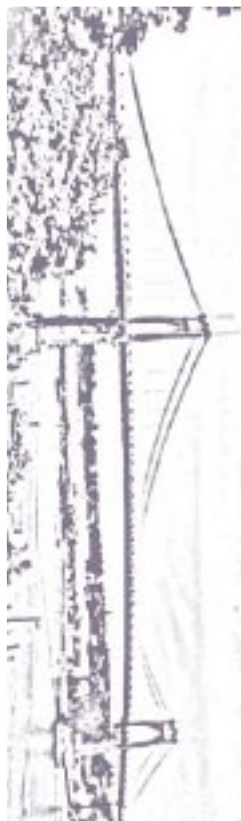
April 2012

Pre-Sorted Standard  
Postage and Fees Paid  
U.S. EPA  
Permit No. G-35  
Seattle, WA



**Learn more about the Portland  
Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup**

**Read inside for details**



**Learn more about the Portland  
Harbor Superfund Site Cleanup**

**Look Inside for**

- **Why Do We Need to Clean Up Portland Harbor?**
- **How Do We Clean Up Portland Harbor?**
- **How Can You Get Involved?**



Printed on 100% recycled paper